WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Poor Financial assistance for Ayurveda and Homeopathy Systems of Medicine

*44. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that from the funds allocated for medical treatment 97 per cent are spent only on Allopathy system of medicine and only 3 per cent on other system of medicine such as Ayurveda, Homeopathy despite those being popular;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard by World Health Organisation or by any other agency;

(d) if so, whether any report has been submitted to Government;

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(f) the reasons for the poor financial assistance to the Ayurveda and Homeopathy ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a), (b) and (f) The Central Annual Plan Outlay for Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy for 1993-94 is Rs. 21.25 crores as compared to total plan outlay of Rs. 483.30 crores in Health Sector. Lower allocations for these systems as compared to allopathy are primarily on account of the treatment being cheaper, less equipment oriented and not requiring extensive hospital facilities. Further, a large proportion of the outlays in the health sector are in respect of National disease control programmes which do not have a component of these systems. The plan outlays for ISM&H is being stepped by 40% in 1993-94 as compared to the previous year.

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(c), (d) and (e) Two reports by National Council of Applied Economic Research and the results of the 42nd round of National Sample Survey are available, which indicate the extent of reliance on allopathy & ISM&H by households.

Leakage of Gas in Godavari Basin

*45. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI :
SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is constant leakage of gas from the drillings in Godavari basin;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the total loss of gas alongwith its value;

(c) what steps have been taken to arrest the same; and

(d) what precautions are being taken to avoid such accedents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) During the drilling operations at Komaradal well in East Godavari District, a blow out occured on 20-3-1993 which was controlled on 15-4-1993. Since this was an uncontrolled flow of fluids from the well it was not possible to measure the quantum of gas coming out of the well.

(c) The services of M/s. Neal Adams Fire Fighters Inc. USA had been requisitioned by ONGC and an Action Plan for capping the well was drawn up. Accordingly by employment of the "Dynamic kill" method by cutting the drill pipe and thereafter pumping heavy mud, the blow out has been brought under control on 15-4-1993.

(d) Mud of suitable specific gravity is used while drilling, and blow out preventer (BOP) is installed over the well head. Monitoring of the operations, inspections, checks and hydraulic tests have been further strengthened.

Dual Pricing Policies

*46. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 18th February, 1993 to the effect that the decanalisation of petroleum products in the country may lead to black marketing;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to re-examine the policy of dual pricing for petroleum products;

(c) Whether Governmnet are aware that common man would be most affected due to the dual pricing policy;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In order to increase the availability of LPG and kerosene in the country in addition to what is available at controlled prices through Public Sector Companies; Government has decided to allow their import and sale at market prices by private agencies. Measures to prevent diversion of lower priced products and black-marketing have been incorporated in the system. Increased supplies in the market will reduce the scope for black marketing.

Recommendations made by Association of State Road Transport Undertaking

*47. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether an annual meeting of State Road Transport Undertakings was held recently at New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Association of State Road Transport Undertakings had made several recommendations to the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to accept and implement the recommendations; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) An Annual Conference of all State Transport Undertakings was held on 19-3-1993 at New Delhi.

(b) and (c) The Association of State Road Transport Undertakings vide their letter No. ASRTU/1419/265 dated 23-4-1993 have informed the Government that the following recommendations had been made for consideration of various appropriate authorities :—

1. National Tariff Commission should be set so as to advice each State on bus fare Structure based on sound economic factors and scientific criteria so as to cover input costs and also to generate surpluses needed for expansion.

   Decisions connected with periodical fare increases should be taken out of the purview of political decision-making authorities and instead should be based on input cost index.